

# Beyond Resolutions

December 29, 2024

## Striving Vs. Surrender

Counterfeit identities are based on what we do, instead of who we are in Jesus.

Collapse is inevitable when you base your identity on performance instead of peace, on effort instead of grace.

An identity based on striving will betray you, but one surrendered to Christ will sustain you.

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

*“But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall **delight themselves in the abundance of peace.**”* Psalm 37:11 (KJV)

Surrender is a daily choice—an intentional decision to say, **“Not today!”**

*“**Blessed** is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, <sup>2</sup>but whose **delight** is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night. <sup>3</sup>That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do **prosper.**”* Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)

## The Path to Surrender

### 1. Surrender Your Will (Know God)

*“But whose **delight** is in the law of the Lord, and who **meditates** on His law day and night.”* Psalm 1:2 (NIV)

**Memorization without application is meaningless.**

*“In the same way, **faith by itself**, if it is not accompanied by action, **is dead.**”* James 2:17 (NIV)

**If you’re feeling depleted, easily tempted, or disconnected from God you may be spiritually malnourished.**

*“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: **Man shall not live on bread alone**, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

### 2. Surrender Your Relationships (Find Community)

*“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers ... ” Psalm 1:1 (NIV)*

**Do your relationships compromise your values?**

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2 (NIV)*

**If friendship is measured by time spent together, conversations shared, and love given, would Jesus be your best friend?**

**3. Surrender Your Gifts (Make A Difference)**

*“That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.” Psalm 1:3 (NIV)*

**Growth isn’t passive; it requires surrender.**

**Are you storing up treasures in heaven?**

**A Call to Action (Prayer Card):**

**Dear God,**

**This year I surrender my \_\_\_\_\_ to you.**